

Ancient Coin Collection Described

The 51st annual convention of the American Numismatic Association, an organization of coin collectors of the United States and Canada, organized in 1891 and chartered by Act of Congress in 1912, took place last week at the Netherland Plaza. The host was the Cincinnati Numismatic Association, of which Edward S. Horwitz is president.

Many valuable and interesting exhibits filled the Hall of Mirrors, covered by \$1,000,000 insurance.

One which will be of special interest to readers of THE AMERICAN ISRAELITE was that of ancient Jewish coins, owned and exhibited by Louis S. Werner, New York City.

The labels on the cases displaying the coins carry the information that there are three periods of pure Jewish coinage, the Maccabean, 139-137 B. C.; the First Revolt against Rome, 66-70 C. E.; and the Second Revolt against Rome, 132-135 C. E.

Almost 300 Years

The collection is said to be the largest of its kind in the United States, and contains coins not only of the periods named, but of all others in Jewish history for a space of almost 300 years, with interludes, from Simon Maccabaeus, 139 B. C., till the end of Jewish coinage in the time of Bar Kochba, 135 C. E.

Included in the collection are coins of the Hasmonean dynasty, of John Hyrcanus, Judas Aristobulus, Alexander Jonnaeus and Antigonus Mattathias; also coins of the Herodian dynasty, B. C. 37 to 66 A. D., of Herod I, Herod Archelaus, Herod Agrippa I and Herod Agrippa II; also of the Procurators who ruled over the Jews; coins of the First Revolt with the silver shekels and half shekels of various years, and earlier bronze coins.

After Fall

After the fall of Jerusalem, an era of Roman coinage began in Palestine under Vespasian, Titus and Domitian. These coins are known as "Judaea Capta" (Judaea conquered or captured), representing the victory of the Romans over the Jews. Some of them picture Judea as a kneeling maiden with a Roman soldier standing above. The coins of the Second Revolt (Bar Kochba), are represented by the silver shekels of the Temple, the silver denari, and various bronze coins. Those of the independent cities are from Aelia Capitolina, Caesarea, Neapolis, Gaza, Ascalon, all showing the different rulers.

Interesting Symbols

The symbols on ancient Jewish coins, known as "types" in numismatic terminology, are very interesting, as they depict the beliefs and ideas of the people of that period in Jewish art, religion and folklore.

The coins on display showed these types as applied to agriculture, architecture, astronomy and various utensils of the period. The early Maccabean symbols represent the offerings of the priests on Passover and Pentecost and the ceremonies attending the Feast of Tabernacles. The agricultural symbols are connected with the agricultural and harvest festivals in the Temple.

Mr. Werner has spent years in assembling this collection, said to be the largest of its kind, and indicated that at some future time it may be preserved for posterity by donation to some Jewish institution.